

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, and for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement by return of the Form PTO-1449.

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1 and 2 will have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are currently pending. Claims 3-5 and 7-16 remain withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and allowance of claims 1-16 in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DIORIO (U.S. Patent No. 6,357,703).

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection of the claims on this ground, nevertheless, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to clearly obviate the above-noted ground of rejection in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. In this regard, Applicant notes that DIORIO fails to teach or suggest the subject matter claimed in amended claim 1. In particular, claim 1, as amended, sets forth a mouse pad including, inter alia, a pad part having a flat plate shape, a wrist support part having a wrist support cushion, "a detachable coupler that detachably connects the pad part and the wrist support part and around which the wrist support part and the pad part revolve, and a tilt angle adjuster provided under the pad part and configured to adjust a tilt angle of the pad part".

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The DIORIO patent discloses a mouse pad including a pad part having a flat shape 32, a wrist support part 30, and a continuous hinge 26 connecting the pad part and the wrist support part. As clearly shown at least in figure 4, the hinge 26 appears to be permanently attached to both the pad part 32 and the wrist support part 30 via fasteners (represented by point marks in the figures). DIORIO fails to teach or suggest a mouse pad including a pad part, a wrist support part, and “a detachable coupler that detachably connects the pad part and the wrist support part and around which the wrist support part and the pad part revolve, and a tilt angle adjuster provided under the pad part and configured to adjust a tilt angle of the pad part”, as recited in amended claim 1.

The Examiner has concluded that modifying the DIORIO device to make the pad part and wrist support part separated apart and detachably coupled with each other would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art. However, there is nothing in the prior art to suggest that it would have been obvious to make the pad part and wrist support part detachable. In this regard, DIORIO specifically discloses in figure 2 a storage position of the mouse pad, in which the wrist support part is folded up and over the pad part in a compact form for storage. Accordingly, since DIORIO already specifically teaches a storage position, there would be no reason to make the pad part and the wrist support part detachable. In fact, in view of DIORIO's disclosure of the storage position, the DIORIO patent teaches away from providing a detachable pad part and wrist support part since making the part detachable would eliminate the advantages of providing a storage position.

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Moreover, claim 1, as amended, sets forth not only the detachability of the pad part and the wrist support part, but also recites the particular elements that provide that the pad part and wrist support may detach *and* revolve. In this regard, claim 1, as amended, sets forth, inter alia, a mouse pad including a pad part, a wrist support part, “a detachable coupler that detachably connects the pad part and the wrist support part and around which the wrist support part and the pad part revolve, and a tilt angle adjuster provided under the pad part and configured to adjust a tilt angle of the pad part”. Thus, in Applicant’s claimed invention, the detachable coupler produces *both* the ability to detach and the ability to revolve. Accordingly, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to make the pad part and wrist support part of DIORIO detachable as asserted by the Examiner, neither the DIORIO nor prior art teach or suggest mouse pad including the particular detachable coupler as set forth in claim 1, as amended.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that nothing in the applied prior art teaches or suggests the claimed combination including a mouse pad having a pad part, a wrist support part, and “a detachable coupler that detachably connects the pad part and the wrist support part and around which the wrist support part and the pad part revolve, and a tilt angle adjuster provided under the pad part and configured to adjust a tilt angle of the pad part”, as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, even if one were led to make the modification asserted by the Examiner, the claimed combination would not result. Accordingly, Applicant submits that a factual basis for the rejection has not been established and thus a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established, and that rejection of claim 1, as amended, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) can only result from a review of

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Applicant's disclosure and the application of impermissible hindsight. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over DIORIO is improper for all the above reasons and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that dependent claim 2, which is at least patentable due to its dependency from claim 1, for the reasons noted above, recites additional features of the invention and is also separately patentable over the prior art of record based on the additionally recited features. In particular, Applicant submits that none of the cited prior art teaches or suggests a mouse pad including a detachable coupler that "comprises a rotational shaft built in one body along one side edge of the pad part and wherein a coupling groove having the rotational shaft inserted therein for assembly is built in one body of one side edge of the wrist support part", as set forth in claim 2. Accordingly, claim 2 is separately patentable for these additional reasons.

The Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DIORIO in view of HASSEL et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,219,136).

Applicant notes that, since claim 3 has been withdrawn by the Examiner and claim 6 recites the subject matter referred to by the Examiner in this rejection, and claim 6 is listed as rejected and claim 3 is listed as withdrawn on the Form PTOL 326, it appears that the Examiner intended to reject claim 6, not claim 3. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 3 remains withdrawn and claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DIORIO in view of HASSEL et al.

Applicant notes that DIORIO fails to teach or suggest the subject matter claimed, including, inter alia, "a detachable coupler that detachably connects the pad part and the

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wrist support part and around which the wrist support part and the pad part revolve, and a tilt angle adjuster provided under the pad part and configured to adjust a tilt angle of the pad part", as set forth in amended independent claim 1, as described above. Further, HASSEL et al. fails to cure these deficiencies. Moreover, there is nothing in the cited prior art that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to make the modification suggested by the Examiner in the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over DIORIO in view of HASSEL et al. In this regard, there is nothing in the DIORIO or HASSEL et al. patents from which to conclude that it would have been obvious to provide the DIORIO device with "a plurality of coupling bosses formed vertically on a lower surface of the pad part; and a plurality of tilt angle adjusting bolts screwed to the coupling bosses, respectively, wherein the tilt angle of the pad part is adjusted by controlling a coupling amount of the tilt angle adjusting bolts" as set forth in claim 6. Thus, the only reason to combine the teachings of DIORIO and HASSEL et al. results from a review of Applicant's disclosure and the application of impermissible hindsight.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over DIORIO in view of HASSEL et al. is improper for all the above reasons and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all the rejections, and an early indication of the allowance of claims 1-16.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present amendment is proper and that none of the references of record, considered alone or in any proper combination

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thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention as recited in claims 1-16. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Accordingly, consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present amendment and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.


Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
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